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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 139
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Shirley Downing for her remarkable service as Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2000.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those estimable Tennesseans whose contributions to the citizenry of this great State redound to the benefit of the public good; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Downing is one such person whose reign as Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2000 can only be categorized as remarkable; and

WHEREAS, The Ms. Senior America Pageant, of which Ms. Tennessee Senior America is associated, is the world's first and foremost pageant to emphasize and give honor to women who have reached the age of elegance; it is also a search for the gracious lady who best exemplifies the dignity, maturity, and inner beauty of all senior Americans; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Downing truly personifies the pageant's philosophy that seniors are the foundation of America, as well as the nation's most valuable treasure, and that it is upon

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their knowledge, experience, and resources that the younger generation of this country has the opportunity to build a better society; and

WHEREAS, An outstanding lady with a remarkably positive attitude, Shirley Downing advises everyone she meets that life's riches are found in God, family, friends, and good health; and

WHEREAS, Shirley's fulfillment of the role of Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2000 is made even more special by the fact that her sister, Bonnie Walker, served as Ms. Tennessee Senior America 1996; Shirley has also held the title of Ms. Senior Delta 1999; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Tipton County, Ms. Downing worked for many years with her husband, the late D. R. Downing, Tipton County's Building Inspector; and

WHEREAS, Having worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse with Baptist Memorial Hospitals and Nursing Homes in Tipton and Shelby Counties, she presently works as an LPN at the West Tennessee State Prison, with the Southwest Community Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Downing can often be found visiting with the elderly, helping them to have a positive outlook on life, and to maintain their self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, She is a member of the Senior America Cameo Club and the Tennessee Cameo Club, and has served with probity for two decades as a guardian for, and member of, the Parent Guardian Association of the Arlington, Tennessee Developmental Center; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Downing's skit, "Old Folks Are Worth a Fortune," which she performed for the Ms. Tennessee Senior America Pageant, delighted the audience attending the competition; her composure and professionalism during personal appearances and performances as Ms. Tennessee Senior America have earned her the respect and admiration she so richly deserves; and

WHEREAS, She evinces her devout religious faith as a member of the Garland Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, her numerous accomplishments aside, Ms. Downing is most appreciative of the love and support she receives from her seven children, fourteen grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Shirley is extremely devoted to her family, often filling the role of caregiver to her beloved sisters and brothers; and

WHEREAS, Her favorite quote is, "If your mind can receive it, and your heart can believe it, then your body can achieve it," and she has certainly achieved a great deal; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shirley Downing is greatly deserving of this body's recognition and commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Shirley Downing on her meritorious tenure as Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2000, applaud her positive outlook and stalwart commitment to God, family, and friends, and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.